LBJ Chides Speculators On New Head of Justice

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President Johnson, reacting to speculation regarding his choice of a new Attorney General, admonished reporters yesterday that he would not be influenced by "leaks" and said that he still had several persons under consideration.

The comment came at an informal news conference after a Cabinet meeting at which the President again strongly urged his official family to cut expenses in every way possible.

In discussing the naming of a successor to Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, whom he picked Wednesday to be Under Secretary of State, Mr. Johnson said he was not considering Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman for the post.

The President said he had not discussed the appointment with Freeman and did not plan to do so.

There had been published reports in some news media that Freeman might be moved to the Justice Department.

"The day will come when regularly employed speculators will find out that their speculations are just pure speculation and nothing else, because we don't appoint men on that basis," the President said.

Appointments have not been influenced by leaks since he has been President, Mr. Johnson declared. The very fact that a report gets about "is the best indication that it is not likely to happen," he added.

The President said he had discussed the Attorney Gener-

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alship with Katzenbach "and some others—but no reporters." Then he added: "I would say, generally speaking, you can count their speculations as totally unreliable and uninformed."

It was one of the President's sharpest lectures about predictions regarding his future plans.

He also said that the press had not been "credible" in reporting on the budget. The public has never quite realized, he said, that every deficit since he became President has been smaller than originally predicted in budget messages.

He showed a chart depicting how original estimates of budget deficits had been reduced in fiscal years 1964, 1965 and 1966.

Another chart showed that Federal expenditures as a percentage of gross national product had declined. The President called on agency heads to save on procurement orders and in floating new securities, filling personnel vacancies, and paying overtime.

"As we say on the farm, maybe we ought to try to get by with some baling wire to patch things up," the President said.

"This is a very tight period."

Mr. Johnson said the Treasury would have to go into the market to borrow some new money before the end of the year. It will amount to "several additional billions," he said.